

## Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 10 October 2017, starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor R Bennett (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	S A Hirst
J E Alcock	J Holgate
S Atkinson	S Hore
A Brown	A M Knox
I Brown	S Knox
S Brunskill	G Mirfin
S Carefoot	R Newmark
P M Dobson	J Rogerson
P Dowson	G Scott
P Elms	D T Smith
R J Elms	R Swarbrick
M Fenton	D Taylor
R Hargreaves	R J Thompson
B Hilton	N C Walsh
K Hind	J White
S Hind	

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Resources, Head of HR, Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

### 307 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Fielding, opened the meeting with prayers.

### 308 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Bibby, M French, G Geldard, L Graves, T Hill, M Robinson, I Sayers and R Sherras.

### 309 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest.

### 310 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Penny Pitty submitted a petition regarding Public Space Protection Orders. The Leader thanked her for the petition and confirmed that a report concerning the Public Space Protection Orders was due to be considered at the next meeting of Health and Housing Committee.

### 311 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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## MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on a varied range of engagements that he had attended since the last meeting. This had included The Last Night of the Proms in the Castle grounds and the Food Festival in August.

He had also hosted a Mayor's Garden Party which had raised over £1,000 and he thanked Members for their support at that event.

He had attended the Chipping Show and the Hodder Valley Show and a Heritage Open Day with the Mayor of Clitheroe.

Recently he had attended events to celebrate 90 years of Girl Guiding at Waddow Hall.

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## LEADER'S SPEECH

The Leader began by reflecting on the news of recent job losses that had been announced at BAE Systems in Wharton and Samlesbury. He hoped Members would support him in urging the Government to develop a sustainable industrial policy for aircraft and to press the Government to bring forward orders for the Typhoon aircraft.

The Leader then went on to update Members on Council progress over the last 4 months.

In relation to Economic Development the Leader confirmed that the management structure had been reorganised to create a Planning and Economic Development Department and action had been taken to recruit a new Director to lead the Department.

The new Economic Development Committee had met and one of its first tasks would be to review the Council's tourist policy. All tourist providers would be consulted on their views.

The Committee had also approved a new Heritage and Tourism Trail which was in the process of being set up and it was proposed that the new trail be launched in the Spring.

The Clitheroe Town Centre Development configuration had been approved by the Working Group and Policy and Finance Committee. The Leader reported that the new Holmes Mill development had recently hosted a food conference, promoted by the Department of International Trade and Tourism in Lancashire.

Next the Leader confirmed that in parallel with the drive to improve the local economy, Policy and Finance Committee had set up a Communications Group. The group was considering a new website for the Council to promote the work of the Council and activities in the borough.

The Leader updated Members on activity relating to the Lancashire Combined Authority. He had recently met with Jake Berry MP, the Northern Powerhouse

Minister, and had explained the Council's position on the Lancashire Combined Authority. The Leader had confirmed that the Council would take part in an Association of Lancashire Local Authorities to co-operate on infrastructure schemes and economic development working with the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.

The Leader noted a range of key issues in relation to recycling and waste collection following Lancashire County Council's decision to reduce payments to boroughs and districts by £10m per year. This meant that the Council would need to find £430,000 in the budget for 2018/19 to maintain its excellent refuse collection service.

The Leader confirmed that there were a number of options to be considered and that these would be reviewed by the Budget Working Group and the Recycling Group.

Housing and planning remained a high priority for the Council and the Leader reported that Central Government had now recognised that homes needed to be built where demand existed, which then created a north/south divide in housing with the need in London and the Home Counties being greater than the north. In response to this problem the Government had begun a consultation exercise.

For Ribble Valley this resulted in two main issues, namely the proposed formula to guide the future needs of homes to be included in the 5 year review of its Core Strategy and a new policy on co-operation between Local Authorities. The formula proposed a reduction in Lancashire house building from 5202 to 3234 per year which could reduce the Council's requirement by 1,000 homes in the period to 2028. The consultation exercise meant that Government had recognised that for planning purposes one size did not fit all.

Next the Leader reported on progress being made in respect of the Council becoming one of the first dementia friendly councils in the country. The Working Group had met to consider actions and one of the first steps would be to register with the Alzheimer's Society. The Council's major aim was to keep its residents healthy in their homes.

Finally the Leader confirmed that the Local Government Association Peer Challenge exercise would commence on 20 November.

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#### LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor A Knox, asked if the Leader could confirm how many successful nests there had been for the Hen Harrier in the Forest of Bowland during the current year. The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and confirmed that unfortunately there had been no successful Hen Harrier nests this year. He informed Members that further details could be found by contacting James Bray (RSPB) Hen Harrier Officer for Bowland.

Next Councillor Knox asked what work had been done to evaluate the impact of the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill on the laws and regulations that the Council had to adhere to or enforce. The Leader confirmed that the Council had not yet carried out an analysis of the impact of Brexit on the Council's operations.

However the Local Government Association had been addressing various departments in the 8 Brexit related bills and were currently in the process of identifying those issues which would matter to Council.

Finally Council Knox asked as the implementation of Universal Credit was imminent, what procedures had the Council put in place to ensure that the 6 week delay in paying Council clients their benefit did not have a negative effect on the Council's finances. The Leader reported that given that the Council had transferred its Council houses to Ribble Valley Homes and therefore no longer received rental income, there were no direct financial implications. There was one exception however which was the Joiners Arms, where the Council would receive rental income from tenants who were in receipt of Universal Credit. The situation would be closely monitored in respect of those tenants.

315 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Accounts and Audit Committee – 26 July 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(ii) Planning and Development Committee – 27 July 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(iii) Community Committee – 29 August 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(iv) Planning and Development Committee – 31 August 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(v) Personnel Committee – 6 September 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(vi) Health and Housing Committee – 7 September 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(vii) Policy and Finance Committee – 12 September 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(viii) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 14 September 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(ix) Licensing Committee – 19 September 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(x) Economic Development Committee – 21 September 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(xi) Planning and Development Committee – 28 September 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

The meeting closed at 7.23pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (414400).